

**What is claimed is:**

1. A dental x-ray apparatus having an x-ray tube contained within tubehead and supported by tubehead components, the improvement comprising forming said tubehead from cast zinc or zinc alloy.
2. A dental x-ray apparatus having a tube supported within a tubehead, the improvement comprising forming at least one of said of the tubehead components from a plastic material impregnated with a radiation absorber.
3. A dental x-ray apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said radiation absorber is a barium compound.
4. A dental x-ray apparatus as in claim 3, wherein said barium compound is barium sulfite.
5. A dental x-ray apparatus as in claim 2 wherein said tubehead component is an x-ray tube holder.
6. A dental x-ray apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said plastic material is substantially transparent to x-rays.
7. A dental x-ray apparatus as in claim 2, substantially free of components containing lead.
8. A dental x-ray apparatus powered by a direct current power supply.